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Dr. Greene Indicted In Forgery

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A federal grand jury in Alexandria charged Dr. Katherine V. Greene of Arlington yesterday with forgery and making false statements to collect $3,365 in medicare payments for services that were not performed.

Dr. Greene is the wife of Dr. Victor L. Liszka, who testified before a Senate committee on March 6 concerning the physical and psychological health of controversial ITT lobbyist Dita Beard, who has been a prominent figure in the confirmation process of Richard G. Kleindienst as U.S. Attorney General.

The Justice Department has denied that its officials discussed the impending indictment of Dr. Greene with Liszka in connection with his plans to testify before the committee. The Arlington Medical Society had said it will look into Dr. Liszka's testimony for possible violations of medical ethics.

Mrs. Beard is the alleged author of a memo obtained by columnist Jack Anderson suggesting a link between an alleged offer by ITT to help finance this year's Republican National Convention and a Justice Department decision to settle an antitrust action against the giant conglomerate corporation.

Liszka told the committee that Mrs. Beard was hospitalized in Denver with "an impending coronary occlusion" and could not be safely questioned by the committee for several weeks.

The doctor said she was emotionally distressed and "her thoughts did not flow in a logical order." Because of that, "she could have written an inaccurate memo," Liszka said.

Liszka and his wife share an office at 1900 S. Eads St. in Arlington. The indictment alleges that Dr. Greene forged Dr. Liszka's name to 10 of 12 medical payment claims it alleges that she filed for services not actually performed.

Dr. Liszka has not been accused of any wrong-doing. Assistant Attorney General Henry E. Petersen said in a letter to Sen. James O. Eastland (D-Miss.), chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, that Dr. Liszka was intensively questioned by Social Security investigators on Feb. 22. "It was concluded that he was innocent," Petersen wrote.

Petersen wrote to Eastland after being informed by U.S. Attorney Brian P. Gettings that a case against Mrs. Greene would be presented to the grand jury.

Gettings said yesterday that he called Petersen after reading in a newspaper on March 6 that Liszka was expected to testify before the Senate Judiciary Committee.

"I knew no one in the department knew about the case and I felt they should if Dr. Greene's husband was going to testify."

Gettings said he did not reach Petersen until after Liska testified. Petersen then wrote to Eastland, telling him of the impending indictment.

Petersen said that Liszka met with Justice Department officials on March 3 and March 5, before Gettings talked to Petersen. The meetings were held at the doctor's request and concerned only Mrs. Beard, Petersen said. The officials did not discuss "any such personal problem which Dr. Liszka and his wife might have," wrote Petersen.

Dr. Greene is charged with one count of making a false statement for each of the 12 allegedly false medical claims and 10 counts of forgery.

Each false statement count carries a maximum penalty of five years in prison and a $10,000 fine. Each forgery count carries a maximum penalty of 10 years in prison and a $1,000 fine.

Dr W Leonard Weyl, president of the Arlington Medical Society, said on March 7 that the society's executive committee will review Dr. Liszka's testimony for possible violations of the American Medical Association's code of ethics.

The code prohibits doctors from revealing confidences entrusted by patients in the course of medical care or deficiencies in a patient's character unless required to do so by law or to protect the public.

Dr. Liszka has said that Mrs. Beard gave him permission to tell the details of her condition.